

# Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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## Meeting Minutes June 27, 2011

### Attendance:

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Associate Members Present:
Niki Biggs	Susan Austin	
Bob Coen	Amy Axel	
Helene Dubay	Councilman Guthrie	
Reverend Ellison	Kathy Halliday	
Keith England	Ben Mayforth	
Laurie Kwiedorowicz	Steve Sopel	
Mike Mathias	Marc Weinstein	
Tracy Moore		
Andrea Wiley		

- I. Vice Chair Reverend Alvin Ellison called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.
- II. Introductions: Members of the Commission and visitors introduced themselves.
- III. Minutes: The minutes of the May 23, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.
- IV. Committee Reports:
  - A. Membership:
    1. The Commission approved the Membership Committee's recommendation to reappoint Benjamin Mayforth as Student Representative to the Commission for the 2011/2012 school year. This recommendation will be forwarded to the County Executive for further action.
    2. The Commission approved the Membership Committee's recommendation to appoint Ryan Brown and Matthew Combs as Associate Members for the 2011/2012 school year.
  - B. Accessibility:
    1. Fair Housing Services: the Department of Community Services will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for

Fair Housing Services in 2012. The Department is seeking members of the Commissions on Disabilities, Human Relations and the Women's Commission to participate on the Technical Evaluation Committee. Bob Coen and Laurie Kwiedorowicz volunteered to participate. Meeting to be announced.

2. Accessible County Facilities: No new information.
3. Request for Waiver of the MD Accessibility Code: No new requests for waiver have been received.
4. Ramps Program: Habitat for Humanity reports that four ramps and one chair lift have been erected in FY2011.
5. Operation Access:
  - Sgt. Wilkinson reported that on Wednesday, July 6, 2011 Sheriff's Deputies will conduct another check of accessible (handicapped) placards and plates with personnel from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). They will be focusing on the Edgewood/Joppatowne area. Sgt. Wilkinson will provide data on citations issued at the next Commission meeting.
  - Tracy Moore asked the following questions:  
"What effect does the law requiring accessible parking signs to include the fine for illegal parking?" The following is a link to the Maryland Accessibility Code for information on accessible parking signs:  
<http://mdcodes.umbc.edu/dhcd2/Title05.pdf> . See section .07 C. (2) Parking Space Signs – Public and Private Facilities

What are guidelines regarding service animals?

<http://www.adainfo.org/content/ada-issues-winter-2011-newsletter> : outlines changes to the definition of service animal in the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments.

<http://www.ada.gov/svcabrpt.pdf> is a link to an Americans with Disabilities Act Business Brief on Service Animals.

- C. Education Committee: Helene Dubay reported that:
1. The Expo for Transitioning Youth will be held on **Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Bel Air High School, 100 Heighe Street, Bel Air.**
  2. The planning committee is developing topics for workshops and identifying potential speakers.

3. The next meeting of the Expo Planning Committee will be held on Thursday, September 1, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School”.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
1. Web page: Bob Coen updates the monthly “Spotlight on Services” feature on the Commission’s webpage. Commissioners are asked to provide suggestions of service provider agencies to “spotlight” to Bob.
  2. Legislative Committee: No new information.
  3. Voice of the Disability Community:
    - Maryland Alliance of Local Commissions and Committees on Disabilities: Sharon attended the June meeting via teleconference. She will circulate information about the August meeting as soon as available.
    - Maryland Youth Leadership Forum: cancelled for summer 2011.
    - Jurisdictional Planning Group: The meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Public Library has been postponed until Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at Bel Air Branch. Joanne Knapp and Elizabeth Webster of the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security will discuss a project to assess what functional needs support services exist and what gaps remain to be addressed in Baltimore City, City of Annapolis, and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties.
- E. Employment Committee: Niki Biggs reported that:
1. The annual Employment Awards Luncheon will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2011, at noon at the Maryland Golf and Country Clubs. Nominations are expected to be available in early July and will be due on September 7, 2011. The committee will review the nominations on Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center.
  2. The Committee is sponsored a free training on the new Maryland Workforce Exchange (MWE) on May 26, 2011. The training was designed for job developers and other staff of service provider agencies who work with jobseekers with disabilities. The training focused on MWE, the online jobseeker/workforce services system

- specifically developed for jobseekers, students, case managers, employers, training providers, workforce professionals, and others seeking benefits and services.
3. The next meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, July 16, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Workforce Center, 34 N. Philadelphia Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Aberdeen.
- F. Transportation Committee: The Transportation Committee meeting originally scheduled for Friday, June 10, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the historic “Bel Air Colored High School” was cancelled. The next meeting to be announced.
- V. Disabilities Coordinator Report: Sharon reported on the success of the “Lose the Training Wheels Camp” held June 20-24, 2011 at the New Life Center of the Mountain Christian Church. Kudos to Lori Ginley, of the Harford County Public Schools Partners for Success Program, and Connie Howell, of the Maryland Coalition of Families for Children’s Mental Health, and their planning committee!
- VI. Old Business:
- A. 2011 Art without Boundaries Exhibit Reception, Tuesday, July 26, 2011, 5:30 p.m. at the Student Gallery, Joppa Hall, Harford Community College. The reception is free and open to the public. Sign language interpreter will be available.
  - B. Commission Picnic will be held on Monday, September 26, 2011, at Flying Point Park in Edgewood. Susan Austin will coordinate Commission member donations to the menu.
- VII. New Business: The Commission’s draft FY2011 Annual Report will be circulated for review and approval in July.
- VIII. Public Comment and Announcements:
- A. Jessica Leone of the IMAGE Center announced upcoming IL Intent sessions for youth with disabilities in Harford County on July 11, 2011, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Mining Company in Bel Air. For more information, contact the IMAGE Center at 410-982-6311, [www.imagemd.org](http://www.imagemd.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theimagecenter](http://www.facebook.com/theimagecenter) .
  - B. Reverend Ellison announced that he is having back surgery on July 5, 2011 and expects to be recuperating for approximately six weeks.
- IX. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

This document is available in alternative format upon request:  
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